

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 18477

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS
SUBJECT: KCIA: OPPOSITION DIETMEN PROPOSE MISSION TO US?

SUMMARY. ASAHI HAS REPORTED THREE OPPOSITION DIETMEN
PLANNING VISIT TO WASHINGTON FOR KCIA INVESTIGATION
BUT STORY TURNS OUT TO BE FALSE. END SUMMARY.

1. ASAHI SHIMBUN DECEMBER 16 FRONTPAGED STORY THAT
THREE OPPOSITION PARTIES PLANNED TO SEND LEADING MEM-
BERS TO WASHINGTON FOR ON-THE-SPOT INVESTIGATION OF
POSSIBLE LINKS BETWEEN KCIA, US POLITICIANS AND
JAPAN. ASAHI REPORTED UPPER HOUSE MEMBERS KUROYANAGI
(CGP), HASHIMOTO (JCP), AND NODA (JSP) WERE PREPARING
SEPARATE VISITS FOR TALKS WITH REPRESENTATIVES FRASER
AND FLYNT AND OTHERS FOR TEN DAYS BEGINNING DECEMBER 20.
ARTICLE COMPARED DISPATCH OF THREE DIETMEN TO DIET
MEMBERS' MISSION WHICH SOUGHT LOCKHEED MATERIAL FROM
CONGRESS IN FEBRUARY 1976.

2. IN CHECKING WITH KUROYANAGI, EMBOFF WAS TOLD HE
HAD NO PLANS FOR TRIP TO US AND THAT ASAHI STORY WAS
FABRICATED. RELIABLE JSP STAFFER CALLED ASAHI STORY
"STUPID," DENIED ANY JSP DIETMAN PLANNING SUCH A TRIP,
AND ATTRIBUTED JSP ANGLE OF STORY TO GARBLED LEAK FROM
JSP LOCKHEED INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

COMMENT: EMBASSY IS LEFT WITH IMPRESSION THAT
ASAHI DID NOT CREATE STORY FROM WHOLE CLOTH BUT
RATHER THAT ITS REPORTERS, PERHAPS MISLED TO SOME
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EXTENT BY POLITICIANS WITH AXES TO GRIND, PIECED

IT TOGETHER FROM SEPARATE CLUES, SOME IF NOT ALL OF WHICH WERE ERRONEOUS. ALTHOUGH TRIPS NOT PLANNED AS REPORTED, POSSIBILITY REMAINS OPPOSITION PARTIES MIGHT SEND "INVESTIGATORS" TO US ON SHORT NOTICE SO LONG AS KCIA IS LIVELY POLITICAL ISSUE. MOFA (YAMAZAKI, DG AMERICAN AFFAIRS), CLEARLY NERVOUS ABOUT ASAHI STORY AND UNAWARE IT WAS FABRICATION, SAID MOFA HAD ALREADY BEEN APPROACHED BY LDP MEMBERS WHO HOPED MOFA WOULD DISCOURAGE OPPOSITION VISITS-- WHICH YAMAZAKI INDICATED MOFA COULD NOT EASILY DO. HODGSON

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